

**FEATURE AT SIX**

**Bowles has vivid memory of his biggest fishing trip**

By Bob Shephard  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff  
CARLISLE, April 7 - There is a time in every fisherman's life that stands out in the mind as the very best time ever had out on the banks of a lake or river. For George Bowles, that time was 12 years ago in, of all places, Michigan.

It was late fall 1978 when Bowles left with Willie Tabor, Albert House, and Jim Wilson for a week long fishing trip in the Grand Rapids, Michigan. The quarry was salmon which at that time were straining against the current of the Grand Rapids river in search of a calm place to lay eggs and die.

It was Bowles' first time fishing for salmon and he had little idea what was in store for him as he settled beneath an old railroad trestle a few miles outside of Grand Rapids along the river bank. Bait was unnecessary, Bowles said.

Most fishermen relied on snagging fish as large schools passed on their way up river.

"They all laid eggs just when it was starting to get cool and once they are laid the salmon swim to another place and die. They all swim upstream almost at the same time and they travel in schools up that river. In their struggle up some would get caught on our hooks. There would be so many people along the bank doing the same thing and they were catching them, very few larvae were ever used," Bowles said.

But the Grand Rapids river, which runs through the center of the Michigan town, is deep and provides a murky camouflage for the salmon to pass by, so most of the actual fishing was more of a waiting game.

But the payoff was usually more than a fresh water sportman expects.

"I snagged this one in the tail and he was a fighter, boy, he jumped near five feet in the air trying to break my line or get off it. And if you weren't careful, they would," Bowles said.

They were reeling and casting all along the old railroad trestle and within the six days they were on the bank, never did they use the boat they brought.

Bowles swears they brought in nearly 500 pounds of fish.

all together, the smallest fish caught weighing in at 21 pounds and two fish weighing in over 30.

"They are hard fighters and they'll whip you around if you're not careful. Some fish took me about 20 minutes to haul in," Bowles said.

"This was especially hard at about the eighth to ninth hour of fishing in weather just turning cool, he said. Often the temperature stayed at just above 35 degrees.

But the trip was far more lucrative than Bowles expected.

The buying rate for salmon eggs was approximately 15 cents a pound and with about 5-10 pounds in each salmon egg sack, they were able to pay for all their food and part of their trip just off the sale of the eggs at fish hatcheries located nearby.

"Sometimes you'd go a whole day without catching a thing and the next all you had to do was drop your line in. In our last day, I expect we pulled in six fish. I brought in one that wore me out so much I had to lay down on the bank after it was over, and that was after I had a lot of help. It would take you near 20 minutes to haul them in. But I went sore and I never went back. Always did want to though, I could just sit and watch those fish flip themselves up the dam steps faster than I can walk. But it was the best time I ever had fishing. I don't expect I've ever had better," he said.



George Bowles

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**OBITUARIES**

**Hawkins**  
Susan Hawkins, 66, of Mt. Pleasant, Clay (Jack) vrs. Road, Carlisle, widow of Alexander, 81, Flemingsburg, died Saturday, March 31 Sunday, April 1, 1990 at St. Joseph Hospital, Lexington. Mr. Alexander was a retired farmer and a member of the T. Run Church, Alexandria.

Surviving are his wife, Catherine Powell Alexander; one daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Hawkins, all of Nicholas County, five daughters, Ann Lou Stone, of Flemingsburg, Ashby, Virginia Hawkins, Linda Howard, all of Nicholas County, Eva grandchildren, and three Fitzwater and Brenda Smith, great grandchildren. He was a member of the T. Run Church, Alexandria.

Services were April 4th at Boone-Nickel Funeral Home, in Flemingsburg, with Rev. George Sloan officiating. Burial was in Sunset Cemetery.

Services were held 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 4, at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home, by Reverend Dick Gies. Burial in Carlisle Cemetery.

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**Jackets improve mark to 4-2**

CARLISLE — Nicholas County's baseball team improved to 4-2 on the year sweeping a twinbill with Pendleton County and splitting a doubleheader with Jessamine County.

Pendleton County jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first inning, but Nicholas County erupted for 11 runs in the home half of the third inning and added two more in bottom of the fifth to claim a 13-3 win.

Daniel Brown improved to 2-0 with the win.

Trevin Sims had two home runs and five runs batted in to lead Nicholas County.

In the second game Nicholas County pushed out to an 18-4 lead after three innings and coasted to an 18-8 win.

David Sibert picked up the win. Brierly and Stone had two hits and two this each.

Against Jessamine County the bats pulled out to a 4-0 lead after three innings and added 10 in the top of the fifth to post a 14-1 win.

Sims took the loss for the Jackets.

In the second game, the Cats took a 2-0 lead after one inning, but Nicholas County scored twice in the fourth.

three in the fifth to take a 5-4 lead on to win 6-4.

After allowing Jessamine County a run in the top of the sixth, the Jackets scored in the

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